

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A speed reducer comprising:

a housing;

an input shaft having at least one seal area including a seal journal with a plurality of rounded bumps, the input shaft being positioned through an input aperture in the housing;

an input seal disposed between the seal area of the input shaft and the input aperture in the housing to seal an internal environment of the housing from an external environment of the housing;

an output shaft having at least one output seal area^{[[,]]} including a seal journal having a plurality of rounded bumps disposed thereon, the output shaft passing through an output aperture in the housing; and

an output seal disposed between the output aperture in the housing and the output seal area to seal the internal environment of the housing from the external environment of the housing.

2.-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) A shaft comprising:

a seal area including a seal journal; and

a plurality of rounded bumps on the seal area journal, so as to promote hydrodynamic lubrication.

10. (original) The shaft as claimed in Claim 9, wherein a seal is positioned around the seal area.

11. (currently amended) The shaft as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the seal area is positioned within an aperture in a housing to seal an internal area of the housing from an external area of the housing.

12. (original) The shaft as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising a bearing journal for supporting a bearing.

13. (original) The shaft as claimed in Claim 9, further comprising a gear journal for supporting a gear.

14. (currently amended) A wall and shaft assembly comprising:
a wall having an aperture;
a shaft having a seal area including a seal journal with a plurality of rounded bumps so as to promote hydrodynamic lubrication, the shaft being positioned through the aperture; and
a seal disposed between the seal area of the shaft and the aperture to seal a first side of the wall from a second side of said wall.

15. (original) The wall and shaft assembly as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the shaft further comprises a bearing journal for supporting a bearing.

16. (original) The wall and shaft assembly as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the shaft further comprises a gear journal for supporting a gear.